

HO-511, Wm. Bian's Two Frame Houses  
5683 and 5691 Railroad Ave., Elkridge  
Surveyed by: Kristin Hill  
March 2003

## **ADDENDUM**

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### Section 3. Owner of Property

Richard Chandler  
5683 Railroad Avenue  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Melvin and Phyllis Hipsley  
5691 Railroad Avenue  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

### Section 4. Location of Legal Description

Howard County Courthouse  
Ellicott City  
Liber 714, Folio 612, Tax map 38, Parcel 604 (5683 Railroad)  
Liber 2623, Folio 650, Tax map 38, Parcel 605 (5691 Railroad)

### Section 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

X Other Contributing building in the Elkridge Landing Historic Survey District, HO-784

### Section 7. Description

Condition: very altered  
Date: ca. 1880 and 1910

These two houses were recorded together in the 1970's as William Bian's Two Frame Houses. According to the inventory form, both were two story two bay frame structures with side gabled roofs and cross gabled rear wings, much like several other buildings recorded on Main Street and Railroad Avenue. However, both have been altered several times and neither looks much like it did originally. 5683 Railroad Avenue, called the William Gray House on the original inventory form, has had a shed roofed addition made to the rear and a single story, one bay, two room deep addition made to the north end of the house. The fenestration has also been altered on the front of the house by reducing the size of the second story window above the door. A shed roofed porch with square wood posts runs the full width of the front façade. The structure has aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and all vinyl replacement windows.

If the house at 5691 Railroad Avenue was ever a two story two bay structure like 5683 and others in the district, it bears no resemblance to that form now. Instead, the two story, three bay frame structure looks more like an early twentieth century trigable with several rear additions. The original portion of the house has a rusticated concrete block

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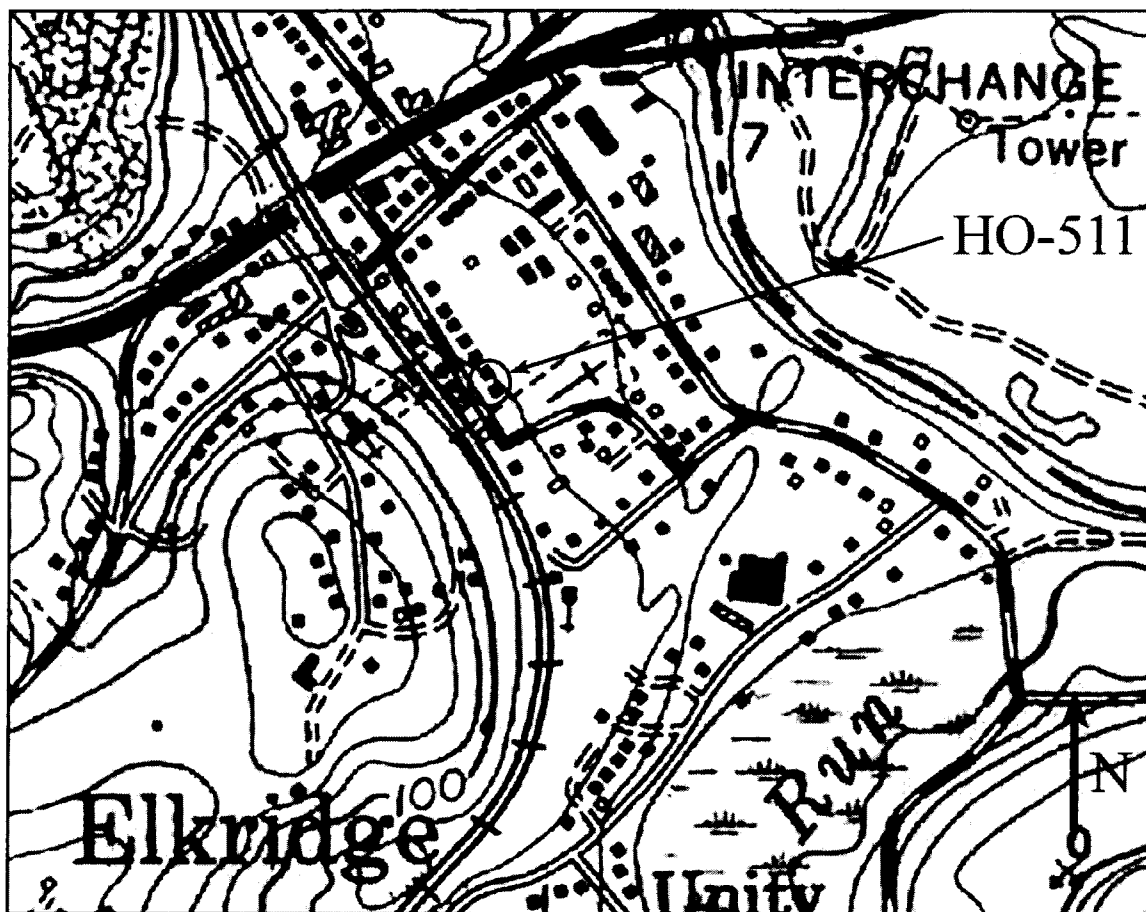
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foundation and rusticated concrete block porch supports on the full width front porch. A second story cross gabled projecting center bay rests on the front porch roof. The house has aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and vinyl windows. The original form states that it has had additions made to every façade, which is really the only way to explain how this building every looked anything like its neighbor. An inspection of this building to determine if there was any truth to the statement that this was a 19<sup>th</sup> century building was abruptly cut off by the angry owner who swore that his house wasn't historic and ordered me off the property. A large cinderblock gambrel roofed structure located immediately to the south of the house is not contributing. The property is currently cluttered with many vehicles in various states of repair and is used for some sort of contracting business.

It is possible that these two houses are the ones depicted on the 1878 Hopkins map as those owned by Gray and Lineberger but the architectural evidence isn't very convincing. The house at 5683 may have been built in the 1870's but a later date of 1880 or 1890 seems more likely. The house at 5691 with the rusticated concrete block foundation may not have been built until the early twentieth century.

### Section 11. Form Prepared by

Kristin H. Hill, Architectural Historian  
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-313-4335  
May 2003



HO-511, Wm. Bian's Two Frame Houses  
Elkridge, Howard County, MD  
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay  
7.5 Minute Series, 1957 (PR 1966 and 1974)



1. The first part of the survey was  
conducted in the area of the  
old mill race, and the  
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1 of 3



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HO-511

circa 1875

William Bian's Two Frame Houses:

The William Gray House; The Lineberger House

Private

Elkridge

William Bian's Two Frame Houses face west, side by side, on the east side of Railroad Avenue, just south of The Charles Earp House, HO-519.

Both houses were originally two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, frame (covered now with aluminum siding, which replaces previous wooden shingles) houses, resting on brick foundations with a square brick chimney rising from the center of each of its east walls, and a one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west) frame kitchen wing.

Both houses have been totally renovated and modernized by their owners and the Lineberger House enlarged on the north, south, east and west elevations.

Part of a tract of land owned by Bernard Boyle and inherited by his sister, Mary Lee, it was sold to Mr. William Boyle in 1875 who almost immediately sold this portion of the property in June of 1875 to William H. Bian of Baltimore City, who also sold them in June, 1875 to William Gray and Ann Louisa Lineberger, "together with the buildings". They are noted on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-511  
Dist. 1

MAEI # 1409115504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

William Bians Two Frame Houses

AND/OR COMMON

A. The William Gray House and B. The Lineberger House

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER A. 5683 Railroad Avenue  
B. 5691 Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

A. Mr. Richard Chandler

Telephone #: 301-796-2375

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5683 Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

Tax Map #38, p. 604 (A), 605 (B)

Liber #: A. 714 B. 643

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Hall of Records

Folio #: A. 612 B. 635

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

HO-511  
Dist. 1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

William Bian's Two Frame Houses face west, side by side, on the east side of Railroad Avenue, just south of the Charles Earp House, HO-519. Both houses were originally two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, frame (covered now with aluminum siding which replaces previous wooden shingles) houses, resting on brick foundations with a square brick chimney rising from the center of each of its east walls, and a one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west) frame kitchen wing. Both houses have been totally renovated and modernized by their owners and the Lineberger House enlarged on the north, south, east and west elevations.

The William Gray House remains relatively intact, though certain alterations have been made, all of which add to the convenience and ease of living and in all cases enhance the original structure.

The living room measures some 18' x 22' with a small hall and staircase on its north wall. Originally a wall separated the living room and hall, but this interior wall has been removed and a larger living room provided. Initially the entrance door, located in the north bay of the west elevation led directly into the staircase, rather than the small hall. This was altered by Mr. Chandler and the door moved just south of the staircase, allowing more space for ascending and descending. The alteration to the west facade is an improvement and gives more unity and relationship to the door and window bays. A hipped roof, one story high, open porch runs along this entire elevation.

The second floor of the west facade has also been altered, originally holding two similar rectangular, second floor, double-hung windows, with one-over-one lights, that in the north bay was not vertically aligned to the entrance, and being appropriate for a bathroom window, was diminished to almost a quarter of its size, allowing a better accommodation of space for the bath, which was enlarged some six inches on its east wall.

Originally, there was no bath in the house. Baths were taken in the kitchen with a tub of water. Closet space was at a premium in this old house. Several additions were made by Mr. Chandler. Additional space in the stairwell was used to accommodate a linen closet with Mr. Chandler also installing closets in both upstairs bedrooms. The alterations to the original kitchen wing are noteworthy.

An addition had been constructed for use as a third bedroom off of the south wall of the original kitchen by the Hudson family, who acquired the house in 1884 and owned it for some seventy five years.

The kitchen originally measured 15' 3½" wide and 13' 5" deep. Off the south wall of this kitchen was constructed a 6' 8½" wide and 13' 5" deep bedroom addition, with dirt basement beneath, used as a summer kitchen in earlier days. These two rooms have now been made into one large kitchen-dining room with large sliding doors on the east wall overlooking a 22' by 14' wooden patio constructed by Mr. Chandler.

The building is in excellent condition. New electrical wiring and heat has been added throughout the house, as well as the enlargement of the upstairs bath previously mentioned. Renovations have been executed with thought and care, leaving much of the original line and proportion of the house intact.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      circa 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Bian Two Frame Houses: The William Gray House and the Lineberger House are important architecturally to the United States as an example of single family modest, frame dwelling units of the mid to late nineteenth century in the town of Elkridge, Maryland, as well as historically significant to Howard County and the State as part of a piece of property owned by Bernard Boyle in 1871 and subdivided and developed by his family by the year 1875.

Architecturally, they were constructed in exactly the same manner but have both seen renovations. The Lineberger House, south of the Gray House has an additional bay on its north wall, a central second floor projection on its west wall, which holds the bath, and additions on its east and south walls.

The Gray House, on the other hand, stands more or less intact with certain alterations which have been noted in Section 7 under description.

In addition, its architectural merit has been enhanced by the extensive and well executed renovation carried on by Mr. Richard Chandler, the present owner of the building. See Section 7, Description for further details.

Historically, the property was a part of a large tract of land owned by Bernard Boyle in 1871, who in his will of that year left the large lot to his sister, Mary Lee and her husband, Bernard. (Wills 2-210) They sold half the large lot, which was originally bounded on the east by Furnace Avenue, on the west by Railroad or Schoolhouse Lane and comprised all of the east side of Railroad Avenue, including the Stumpner Shingled Double House, HO-513 to Annie and William Boyle on May 7, 1875. (36-262) Daniel Stumpner acquired the western half of William Boyle's property immediately and by 1878, the Stumpner House, HO-513, was noted on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas, as well as HO-512, O'er The Spring, originally the residence of Bernard Boyle and believed to have been constructed, circa 1865. Later this part of the property was subdivided still further, and a lot sold by Daniel Stumpner to Charles A. E. Earp on 26 October, 1885, "together with the buildings and improvements thereupon erected or being". It is the southwestern corner of the property which was originally owned by Bernard Boyle and then Bernard and Mary Lee, his sister, and later sold to William H. Bians for \$1,000, which holds the two identical frame houses denoted on the Hopkins Atlas of 1878 (see attachment 4) as the Lineberger and Gray Houses. Howard County Land Records, liber 35, folio 328, and liber 35-331.

By 1884, Mr. Gray sold his home to Mr. William Hudson whose family held the house for some seventy five years. His grandson, Mr. Leo Hudson had some interesting comments to make of his grandfather's life. He was a worker at the mill at Orange Grove, located on the Baltimore County side of the Patapsco State Park. In those days, everyone walked to work, and his grandfather did so also, rising early enough

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

to make the walk to Orange Grove and from there, crossing the swinging bridge to the mill on the Baltimore County side of the Patapsco River. It was on such a return trip that a flash flood took his grandfather's life and left his grandmother in charge of raising their son. Leo Hudson's father grew up in Elkridge to become an agent of the B & O at the Elkridge Station, living in the B & O Railroad Company House, which was once located north of HO-510, another but smaller B & O Railroad Company House, occupied at that time by a Mr. Pierce, who was a Railroad signal man.

Many anecdotes were related, among them the fact that when visiting his grandfather's home, children would run through the cold halls to jump under warm covers. No heat except that in the kitchen was used for the house.

Architecturally and historically of significance to Howard County and the State of Maryland, The William Bian Two Frame Houses should be placed, in conjunction with the Railroad Avenue Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmarks district ordinance which the property owners of Railroad Avenue may choose to initiate as legislation and approve.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hopkins Atlas of 1878. Interview with Mr. Richard Chandler, February 5, 1979.  
Land Records of Howard County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY A. p. 604 - 72 3/4 perches B. p. 605 - .909 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber A. 714 Folio A. 612  
B. 643 B. 635  
p. 604 A.  
p. 605 B.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

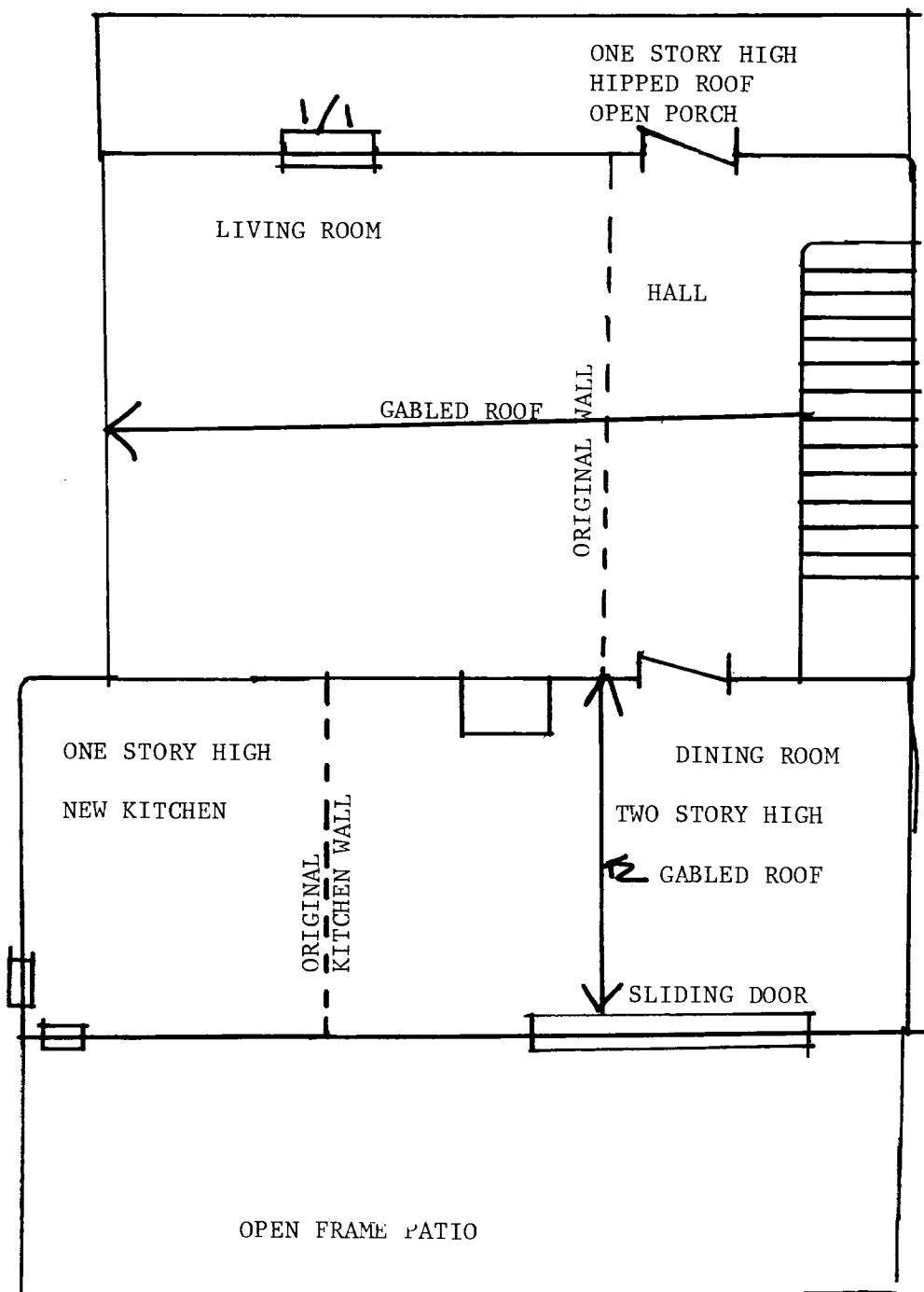
Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

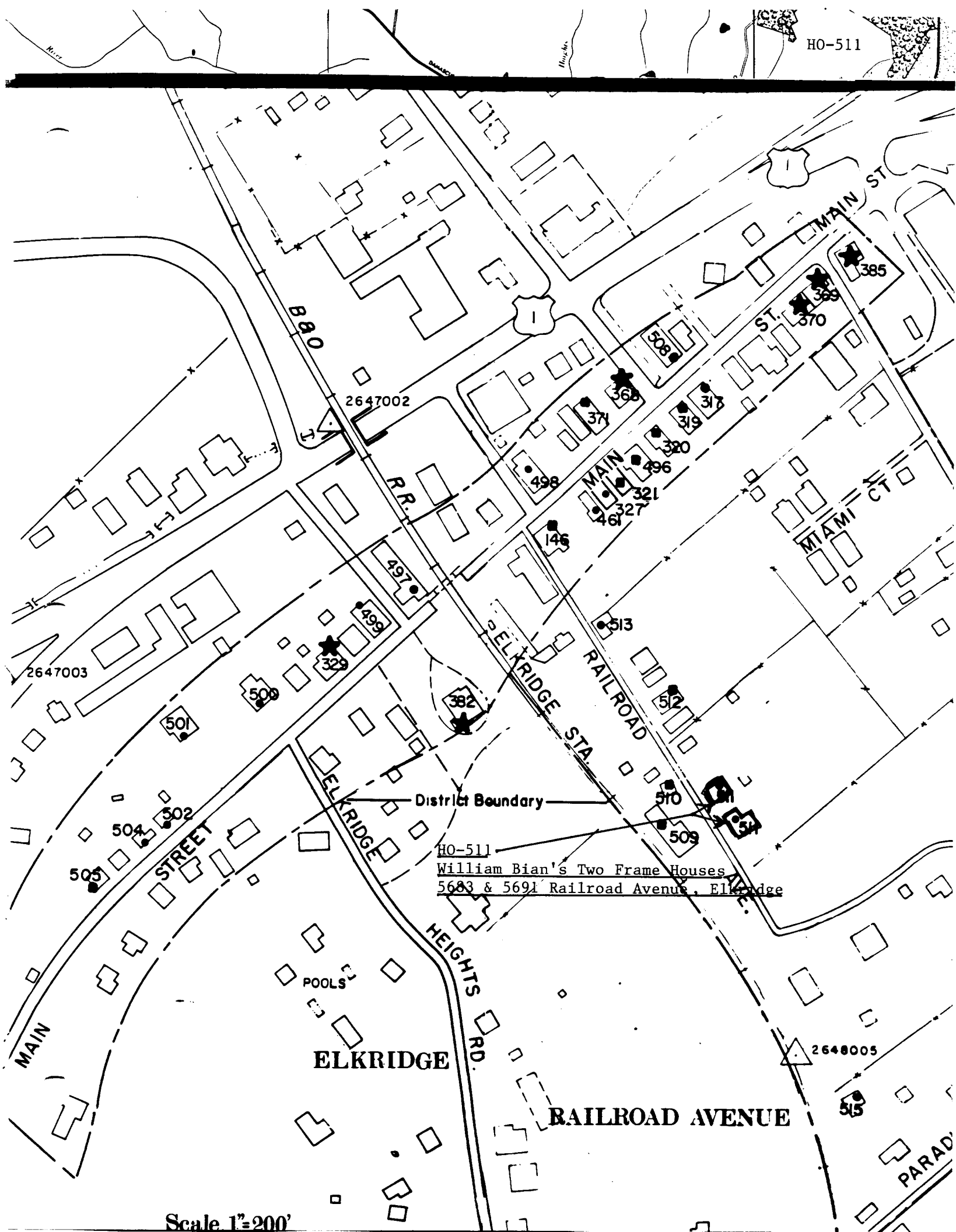
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Figure 1  
HO-511  
William Bian's Two Frame Houses  
First Floor Plan of the William Gray House







District Boundary

HO-511

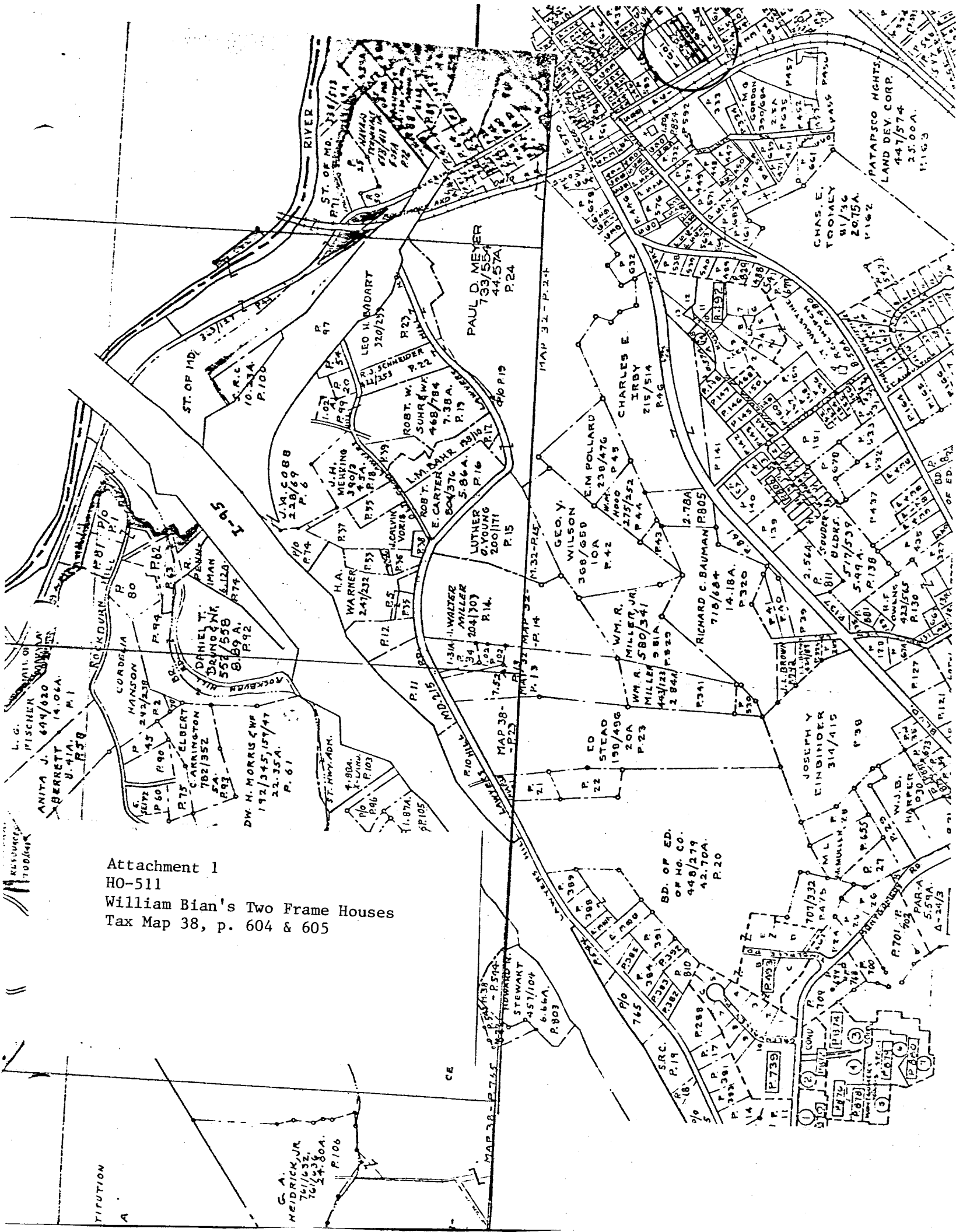
William Bian's Two Frame Houses  
5683 & 5691 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge

ELKRIDGE

RAILROAD AVENUE

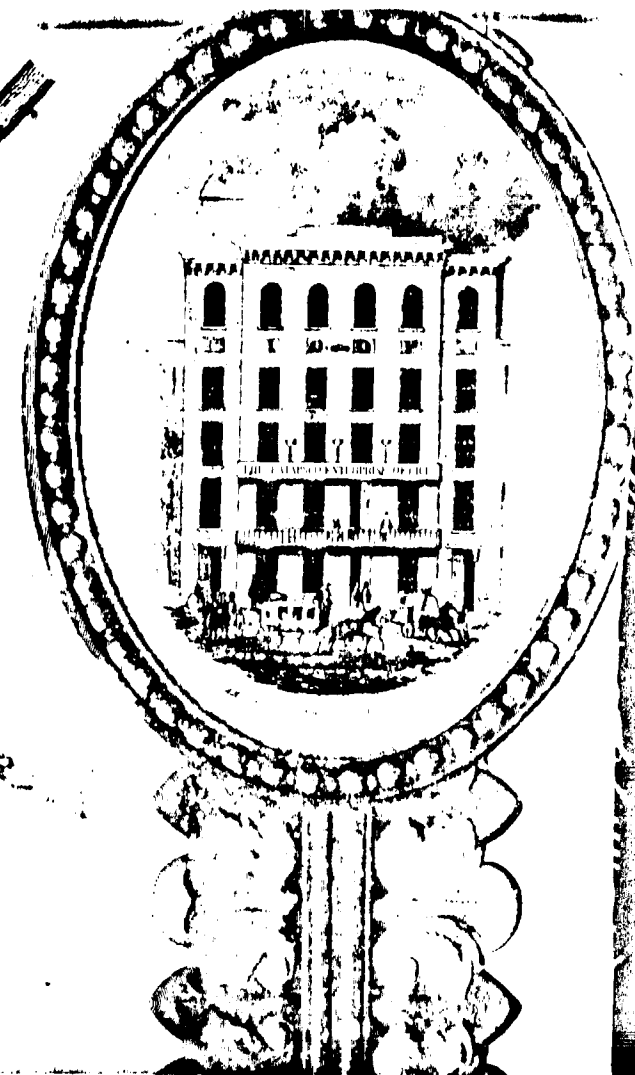
Scale 1"=200'

Attachment 1  
 HO-511  
 William Bian's Two Frame Houses  
 Tax Map 38, p. 604 & 605

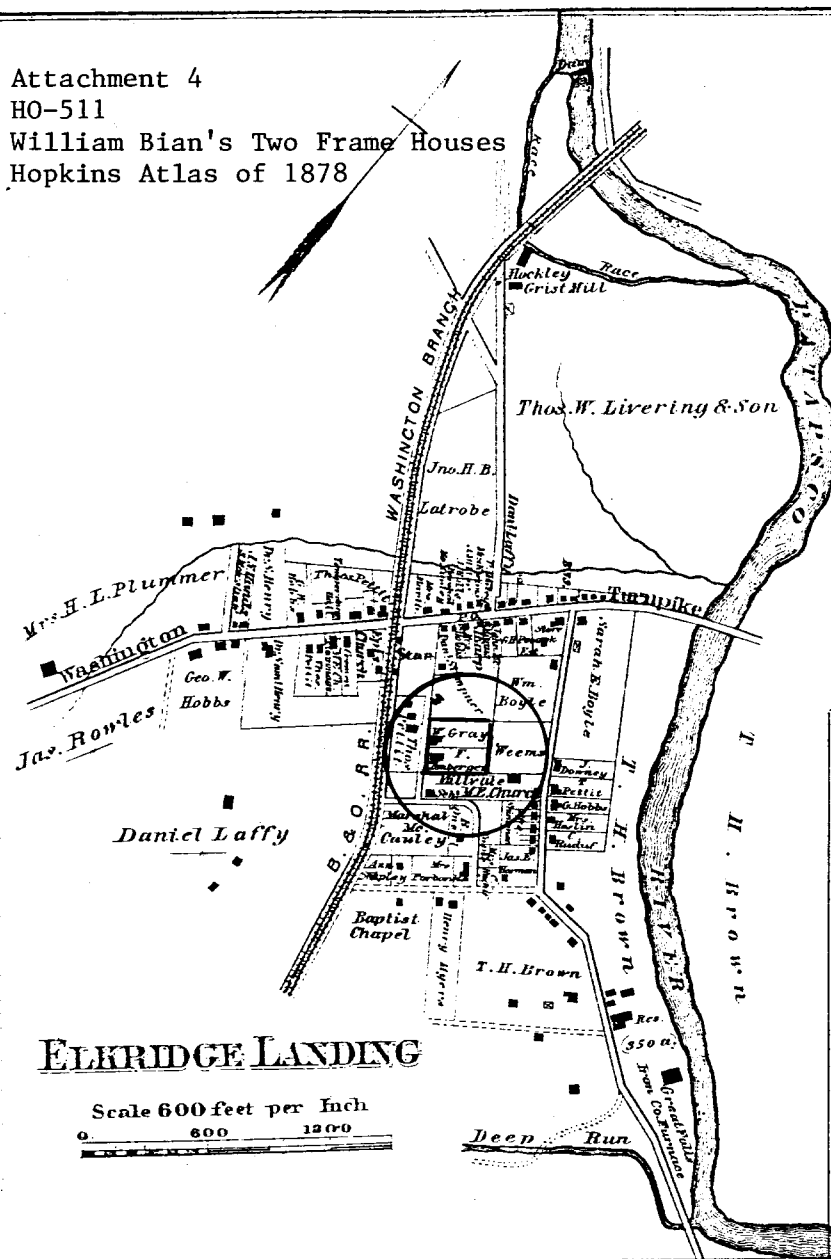




Attachment 3  
 HO-511  
 William Bian's Two Frame Houses  
 Martennot Map of 1860



Attachment 4  
HO-511  
William Bian's Two Frame Houses  
Hopkins Atlas of 1878



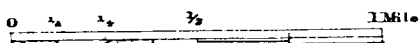
#### Elkridge Landing Business Notices.

<b>ATTORNEYS AT LAW.</b>
ROBERT A. DOBBINS.
GEORGE W. DOBBINS, 42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.
THOMAS M. DOBBINS, 42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.
<b>BLACKSMITHS AND WHEEL- WRIGHTS.</b>
JOHN BRYAN.
JOHN B. HELM.
CARPENTER.
JAMES ROWLES.
<b>ENGINEER.</b>
JOHN N. HANDS.
<b>GENERAL MERCHANTS.</b>
DANIEL LAFFY.
MARSHALL McCAULEY.
JOSEPH H. TALBOT.
GEORGE W. POCOCK.
<b>POST MASTER.</b>
JAMES EARP.
<b>TINSMITH.</b>
GEORGE LANOR, Tin and Sheet Iron Worker, Roofing and Boasting, etc.

## FIRST DISTRICT

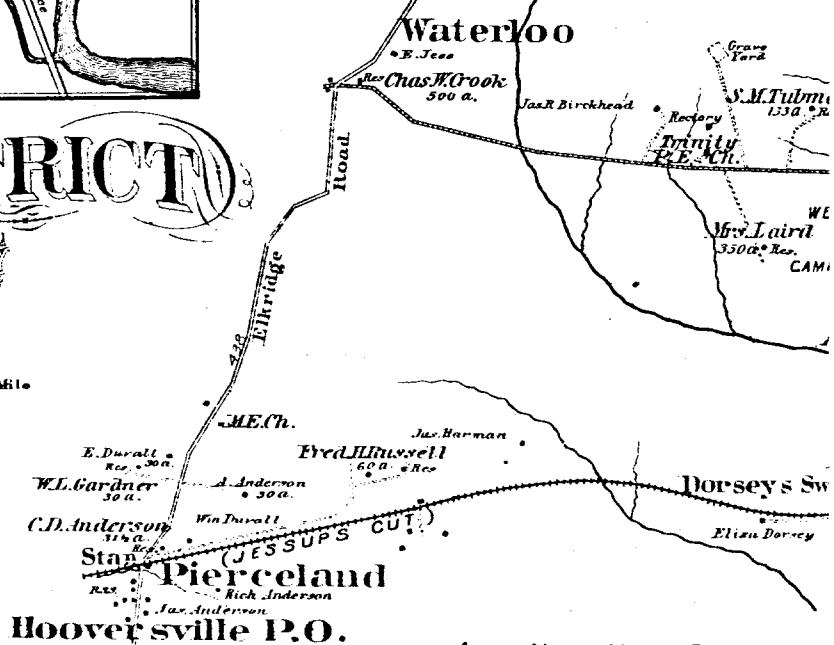
### HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 3 Inches per Mile



#### EXPLANATIONS

Dist. & Co. Lines  
County Roads...  
Private " ...  
Turnpike " ...  
Rail Roads...  
Streams...  
The figures along the Roads  
shows the distance in miles  
from junction to junction thereof



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by C. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

A N N E A

H0-511

# Relay, Maryland Quadrangle



Ho-511  
Wm. Bian's Two Frame House  
SW

Cleora Thompson, AICP  
February, 1979